

Application No.: 09/881,275
Amendment

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. No claims are currently being amended, claims 8 and 10-12 are currently being canceled without prejudice, and new claims 13-15 are being added. Therefore, claims 13-15 are pending in the application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is submitted herewith.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 8 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,357,014 to Baer et al. ("Baer et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,585,599 to Horigami et al. ("Horigami et al."). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Given that Applicant has canceled claims 8 and 10-12 without prejudice, these rejections are now moot.

In the above amendment Applicant has added new claims 13-15. New claims 13-15 correspond to originally filed claims 1-3 with the additional limitation of "determining a movement speed from a direction of the assigned position and the destination direction and moving each of the individuals based on the position and the movement speed thus determined". This additional limitation is supported by Applicant's specification at, for example, page 25, lines 5-16.

Applicant asserts that new claims 13-15 are not obvious over Baer et al. in view of Horigami et al. As such, Applicant submits that the present application should be

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passed to allowance.

No Fees Believed to be Due

A fee was previously paid in this application for a total of 15 claims with 4 claims being independent claims. The above amendment results in there now being a total of 3 claims with 3 claims being independent claims. Thus, no extra claims fees are believed to be due.

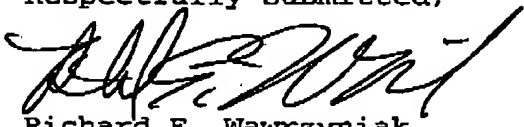
C O N C L U S I O N

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Richard E. Wawrzyniak at (858)552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated

6/8/05


Richard E. Wawrzyniak
Reg. No. 36,048

Address all correspondence to:
Richard E. Wawrzyniak, Esq.
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
120 So. LaSalle Street, Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Customer No. 22242
Telephone No.: (858) 552-1311
Facsimile No.: (858) 552-0095
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